

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 13-20 are presently pending in this application, Claims 1-12 having been canceled and Claims 14-20 having been added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 4, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Morrison et al. (U.S. Patent 6,025,980); Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morrison et al.; Claims 5 and 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morrison et al. in view of Burns et al. (U.S. Patent 3,962,606); and 6 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, Claim 6 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form and Claim 13 was allowed.

New claims are fully supported by the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed. Applicants therefore submit that no new matter has been introduced.

Claims 14-18, which substantially correspond to Claims 2-4, 7 and 10 respectively, depend from Claim 13, which were allowed. Therefore, Claims 14-18 are also believed to be allowable.


Independent Claims 19 and 20 include features recited in Claims 5 and 6, which were indicated as including allowable subject matter. Therefore, Claims 19 and 20 are believed to be allowable.

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Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in view of the indication of allowable subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Masayasu Mori', is written over a horizontal line.

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